

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4528

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 5011

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, XF, NL

SUBJECT: FONMIN VAN DER STOEL'S CONCERN OVER PLO ISSUE AT UN

REF: THE HAGUE 4994

1. DURING OUR OCTOBER 9 MEETING, FONMIN VAN DER STOEL REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER THE PLO ISSUE IN THE UNGA WHICH DCM TANGUY HAD HEARD FROM VAN DER STOEL'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS THE DAY BEFORE.

2. VAN DER STOEL WAS BOTHERED BY THE WORDING OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION DESCRIBING THE PLO AS THE "PRINCIPAL PARTY INVOLVED", FOR IF READ AGAINST RESOLUTION 242 WHICH SPEAKS OF "SECURE BORDERS" THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, HE SAID, COULD BE TAKEN TO ENDORSE A DEFINITE TERRITORY FOR THE PALESTINIANS.

3. ON PROCEDURE, VAN DER STOEL WAS AVERSE TO THE CONCEPT OF THE PLO BEING HEARD IN PLENARY SESSION FOR THERE WAS NO PRECEDENT FOR APPEARANCE BY A "NON"STATE." ALTHOUGH THE POPE HAD ADDRESSED THE UN, THE POPE WAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED AS A HEAD OF STATE. THUS, WHILE THE MINISTER FELT THAT APPEARANCE BY THE PLO BEFORE A COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT BE OPPOSED, HE BELIEVES THAT ITS

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APPEARANCE IN A PLENARY SESSION SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED

UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE PLO HAS MANIFESTED ITSELF
AS A STATE.

4. NOTING THAT THE EC-NINE'S MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS
WERE MEETING THE NEXT DAY (OCTOBER 10) IN PARIS, VAN
DER STOEL PREDICTED THAT FRANCE, AFTER SOME EFFORT TO
WEAKEN THE RESOLUTION, WOULD PROBABLY VOTE FOR APPEAR-
ANCE BEFORE THE PLENARY. SEVERAL OTHERS OF THE NINE
ARE WAVERING ON THE ISSUE. VAN DER STOEL INDICATED
THAT BARRING A CHANGE IN LANGUAGE OR UNFORESEEN DEVELOP-
MENTS, THE DUTCH WILL ABSTAIN FROM VOTING. HE PRESSED
FOR THE US TO MAKE ITS VIEWS KNOWN IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS
AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE NETHER-
LANDS WISHED TO BE HELPFUL BUT NEEDED TO BE PUT IN THE
PICTURE AS HE HAD NO IDEA HOW THE US PLANS TO PLAY
ITS CARDS.

5. I REPLIED THAT OUR POSITION HAD NOT YET FIRMED,
POSSIBLY BECAUSE THE SECRETARY MAY HAVE WISHED TO KEEP
THE ISSUE OPEN UNTIL HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP WAS UNDERWAY. I
PROMISED TO RELAY THE MINISTER'S VIEWS PROMPTLY AND
NOTIFY HIM IMMEDIATELY WHEN THE US POSITION EMERGED.
I VOLUNTEERED THAT OUR POSITION WOULD PROBABLY BE
SIMILAR TO THE NETHERLANDS.

6. DEPARTMENT PASS TO THE SECRETARY AND TO TEL AVIV
AS DESIRED.
GOULD

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